

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Metallic flat gasket having at least one through-opening comprising at least two metallic layers (~~1, 2, 2', 4, 4'~~) made of spring steel, there being disposed, in a first layer $[(1)]$, at least one stopper $[(11)]$ which surrounds the through-opening and a bead $[(12)]$ which is assigned to the stopper $[(11)]$ and, in the at least one second layer (~~4, 4'~~), a bead $[(12)]$ and, in the at least one second layer (~~4, 4'~~), between the stopper region and the bead $[(12)]$ in the first layer (~~1, 2, 2', 4, 4'~~), at least one cranking $[(13)]$ being configured adjacent to the bead $[(20)]$,

characterised in that the constructional height of the at least one cranking $[(13)]$ corresponds approximately to $1/(2n+2)$ times the height of the stopper, with n the non-integer part of the number which is produced when the number of gasket layers which have a bead is divided by 2.

2. (Currently Amended) Metallic flat gasket having at least one through-opening comprising at least three metallic layers (~~1, 2, 2', 4, 4'~~), at least two layers (~~2, 2', 4, 4'~~) comprising spring steel and there being disposed, in an inner layer (~~1, 5~~), at least one stopper $[(11)]$ which surrounds the through-opening and, in the two layers (~~4, 4'~~) adjacent to this inner layer (~~1, 5~~), respectively one bead $[(12)]$ which is assigned to the at least one stopper $[(11)]$ and, in the two layers (~~4, 4'~~) adjacent to the inner layer (~~1, 5~~), between the stopper region and the bead $[(12)]$, at least one cranking $[(13)]$ respectively being configured adjacent to the bead $[(12)]$,

characterised in that the constructional height of the at least one cranking corresponds approximately to $1/(2n+2)$ times the height of the stopper, n corresponding to the non-integer part of the number which is produced when the number of gasket layers which have a bead is divided by 2.

3 - 12 (Canceled)